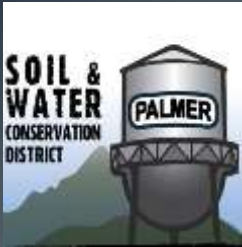


Cottonwood Creek Mapping Project

Palmer Soil and Water Conservation District
NFHAP funding recipient



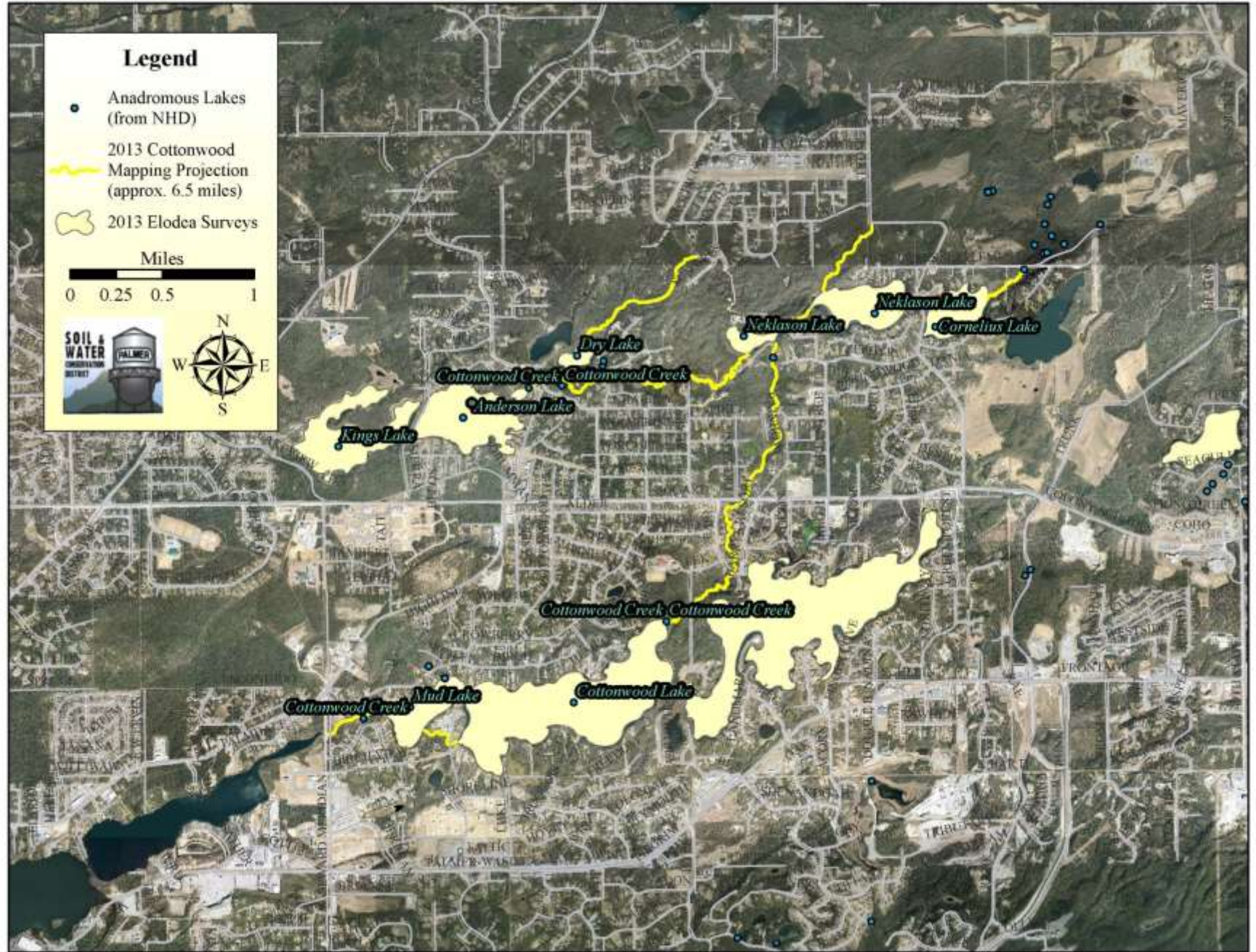
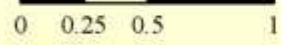
With the support and funding of the US Fish & Wildlife service, Palmer Soil and Water Conservation District staff has mapped Upper Cottonwood Creek with a Trimble GPS unit to verify stream location, collect geomorphic and habitat information, and identify restoration opportunities. Type of data collected includes stream channel width and depth, substrate size, floodplain width, invasive plant infestations, riparian vegetation, degree and kind of human modifications, and photos. Wasilla creek and lower Cottonwood Creek were mapped similarly over the last 2 years by Palmer SWCD and Fish & Wildlife personnel. Wasilla and Cottonwood Creek are both highly urbanized salmon habitat in the Matanuska Susitna basin and information will be used by project partners to reach out to landowners along creek-front property with the hope of increasing awareness, support, and interest in participating in any future restoration efforts. Over the next year, FWS and Palmer SWCD intend to expand this mapping work to incorporate the identified high priority water bodies and identify restoration opportunities to aid in the Mat-Su Salmon Partnerships goal of restoring 5% of altered salmon habitat by 2015.

Fish and Wildlife service has also included funding to survey many of the popular road accessed lakes in the Mat Su valley for *Elodea*, a waterweed found to be deleterious to freshwater habitats. Since, about 65 lakes in the Mat-Su borough have been surveyed by Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and no *Elodea* has yet been found. *Elodea* has been found in lakes in Anchorage, and it is important that high-risk lakes in the Mat-Su basin continue to be monitored on a regular basis.

Legend

- Anadromous Lakes (from NHD)
- 2013 Cottonwood Mapping Projection (approx. 6.5 miles)
- 2013 Elodea Surveys

Miles











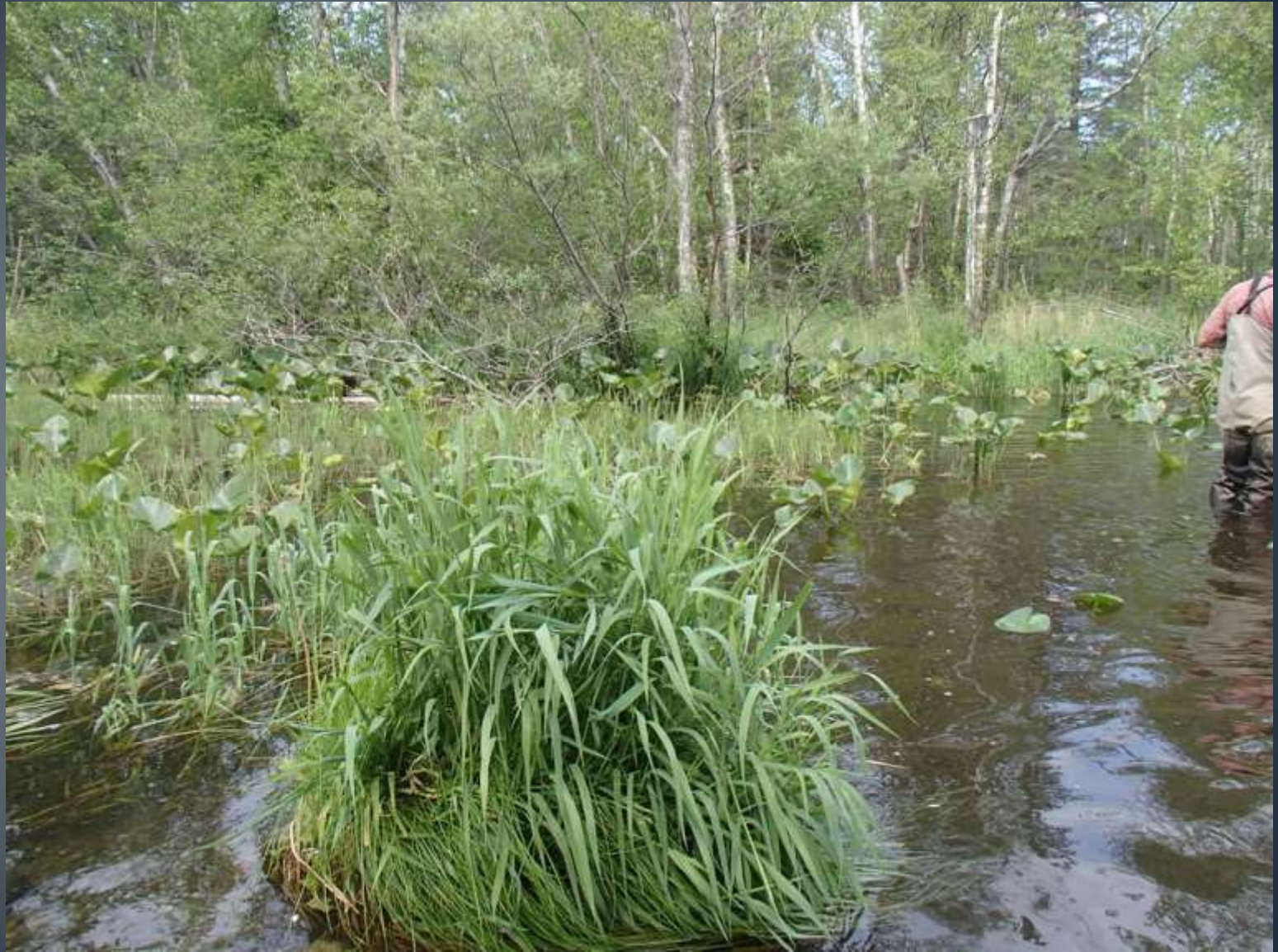












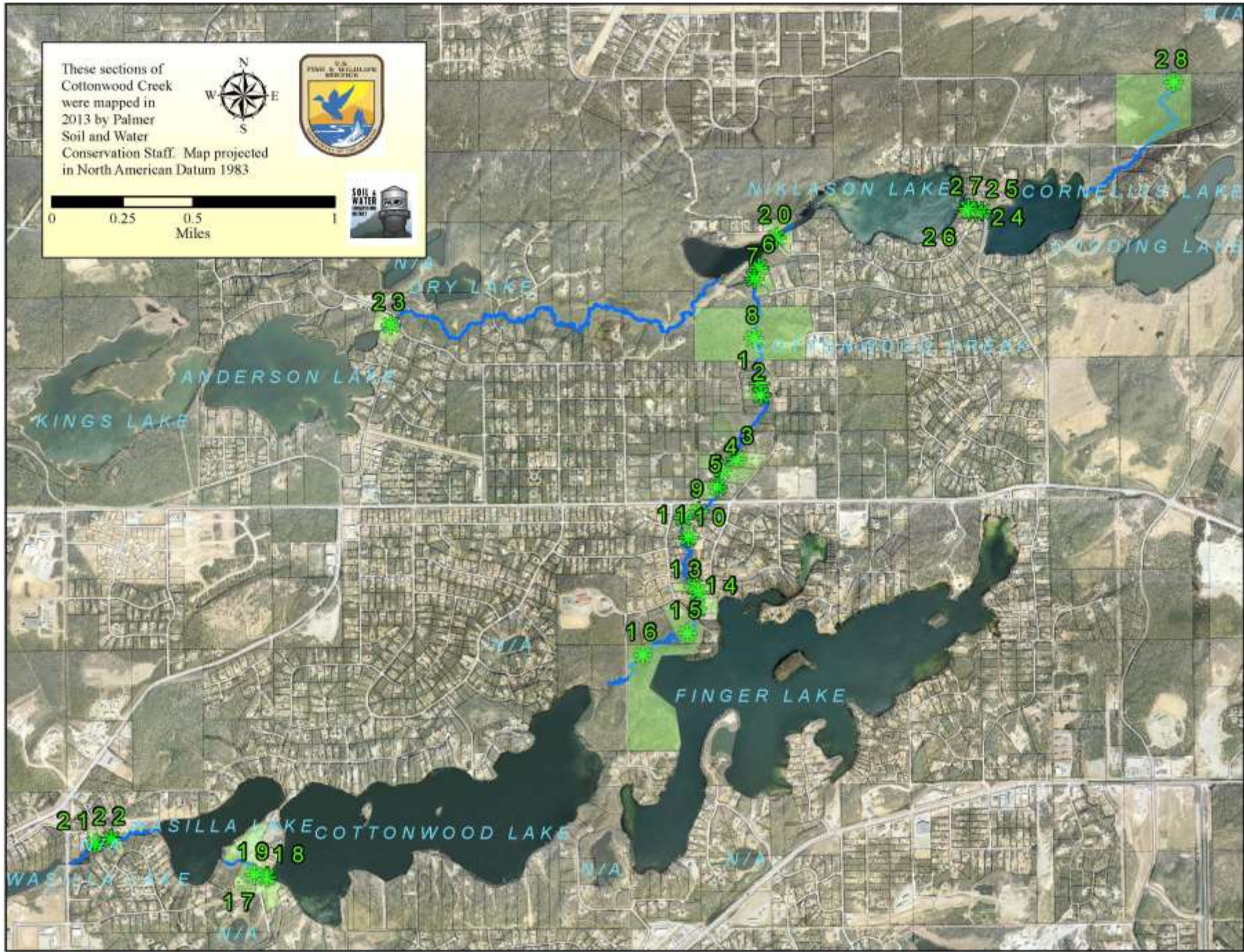
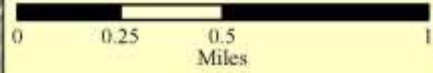








These sections of Cottonwood Creek were mapped in 2013 by Palmer Soil and Water Conservation Staff. Map projected in North American Datum 1983





PRIVATE
CREW RODNEY C SR & CATHY P

PRIVATE
GATTIS RICHARD W

SHORELINE

possible rcg pic 80, 81 r.l.m

COTTONWOOD LAKE

PRIVATE
AMBERGER KURT B

pic 70 riprap on river left

pic 72 river right access point

PRIVATE
AMBERGER MARK E

This section of
Cottonwood Creek
was mapped on
6/25/13 by Palmer
Soil and Water
Conservation Staff. Map projected
in North American Datum 1983





eroding lawn to ck, pic 3423



lawn to stream pic 3725
irrigation pump, pic 3624

atv access pic 38-3926





ELODEA

Submersed aquatic plants in the genus *Elodea* are **not native** to Alaska. *Elodea* survives freezing, and can spread by tiny fragments.

These traits make it extremely invasive.

Elodea has been confirmed in lakes and slow-moving rivers/streams in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Cordova, and most recently the Kenai Peninsula. It's a popular aquarium plant in Alaska and can spread if released: boats, trailers, floatplanes, waders, and equipment can act as vectors. ***Elodea will cause serious, irreversible harm to fish and aquatic habitats in Alaska if allowed to spread unchecked.***

We don't want *Elodea* in Alaska

- **Safety:** fouls boat propellers & float plane rudders
- **Nuisance:** impedes boat launching, navigation, and fishing
- **Economic:** reduces property values by fouling launch sites/nearshore habitats
- **Ecological:** has been shown to degrade salmon spawning habitat



Elodea in Chena Slough/Fairbanks, Alaska



Always remove aquatic plants from your trailer after leaving/ before entering a new waterbody.

If you find *Elodea*:

- ◆ **Note its location:** GPS coordinates and/or a mark on a map with description.
- ◆ **Note its habitat:** did you find it in a river or lake? how deep was the water? was the water clear or slightly muddy?
- ◆ **Take a specimen:** At minimum, take a photo. Take as much of the entire plant as you can, including the flower if present. Put it in a zip lock bag and store in a cool place. If you don't have a bag, press it in a book or inside wax paper and keep it somewhere safe so it doesn't break up. Aquatic plants dry quickly.
- ◆ **Report it:** Call the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's invasive species hotline: At that time someone will let you know where to send the sample. **1-877-INVASIV (468-2748)**



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

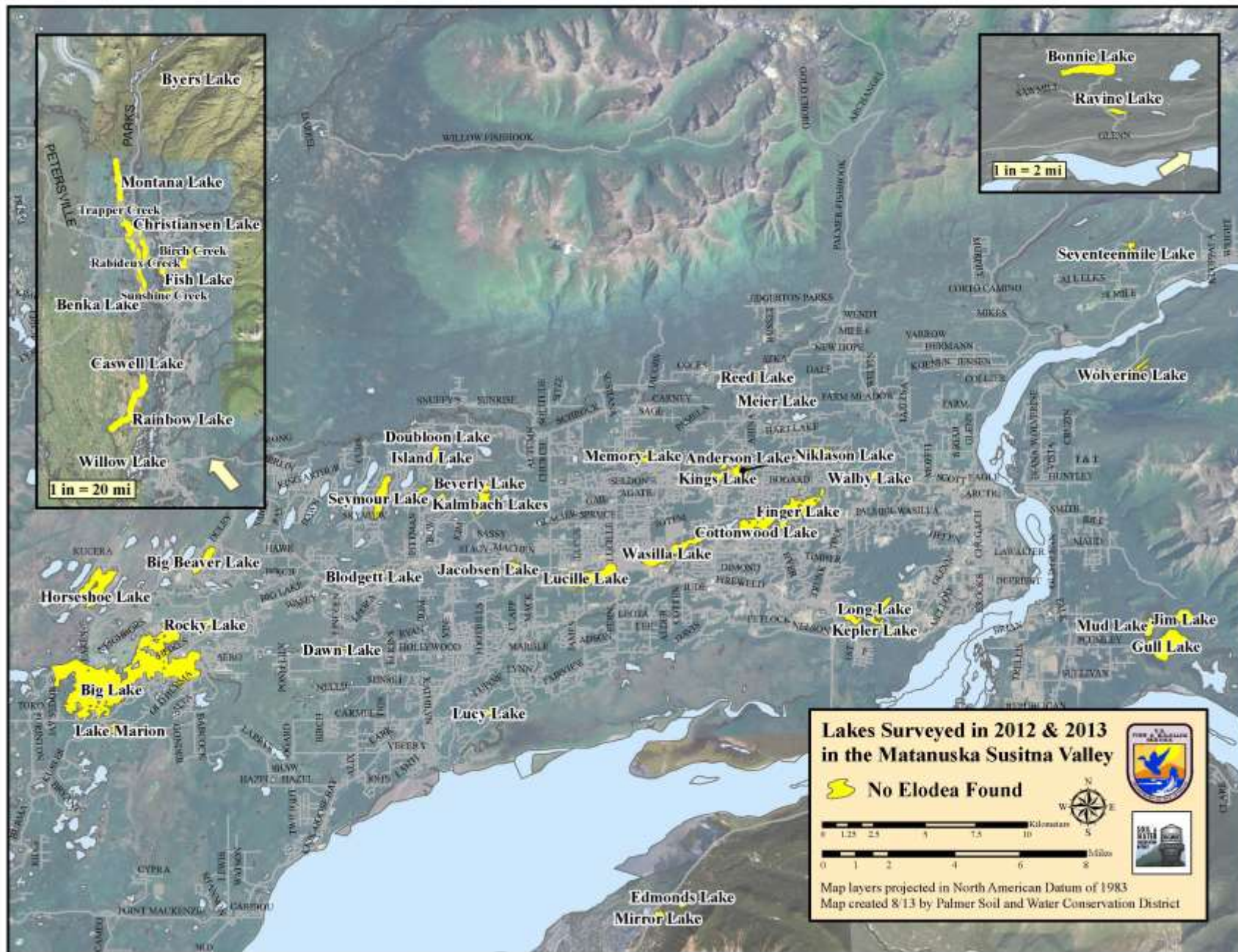
Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.PreventYourWater.com

CLEAN Rinse and remove visible mud, plant debris from boats, trailers, floatplanes, and gear.

DRAIN Empty coolers, bilge pumps, buckets and wring out gear before leaving a waterbody.

DRY Completely dry equipment and gear between visits to fresh water systems.

Never release plants, fish, or other animals into a body of water.



Lakes Surveyed in 2012 & 2013 in the Matanuska Susitna Valley

No Elodea Found

0 1.25 2.5 5 7.5 10 Kilometers

0 1 2 4 6 8 Miles

Map layers projected in North American Datum of 1983
 Map created 8/13 by Palmer Soil and Water Conservation District











Questions?

